

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 SPC-03 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03

H-03 IGA-02 SWF-02 DRC-01 /220 W

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R 282115Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0511

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO ROME FOR FODAG VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO MONTREAL
FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, EC

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 42239; B) QUITO TOAID A-17, FEBRUARY 8, 1974

1. SUMMARY: ABSENCE OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE SINCE NOVEMBER
1972 HAS PREVENTED UNDP OFFICE FROM PERFORMING ITS COORDINATING
FUNCTIONS FULLY AND HINDERED USAID MISSION'S EFFORTS TO REVIEW
UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS. NEW ACTING RESREP ANGEL HERRERA HAS
PARTLY FILLED THE VOID AND PLANS COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW IN JUNE,
1974. REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT URGE UNDP TO NOMINATE RESREP

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SOONEST. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REFERENCE B. INFORMATION IS KEYED TO THE TOPICS LISTED IN REFERENCE A, PARA. 5.

(A) THERE HAS BEEN NO RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN ECUADOR SINCE NOVEMBER 15, 1972. THE FAO REPRESENTATIVE NORBERTO SANDHEZ MEJORADA (MEXICO) SERVED AS ACTING RESREP UNTIL FEBRUARY 1974 WHEN NEW DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL HERRERA ARRIVED AND ASSUMED TITLE OF ACTING RESREP. AS ACTING RESREP, SANCHEZ MEJORADA APPEARED UNINTERESTED AND WAS SOMEWHAT INEFFECTIVE IN THE TASK OF COORDINATING UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH HIS PERFORMANCE AS FAO REPRESENTATIVE IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE. HE TOOK NO INITIATIVE AS COORDINATOR OF OTHER DONORS. IT IS TOO SOON TO EVALUATE HERRERA'S PERFORMANCE OR HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOE. HE HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USAID. THE IBRD MAINTAINS NO RESREP IN QUITO; RATHER, IT USES SPECIAL MISSIONS FROM WASHINGTON D.C. HEADQUARTERS TO SUPERVISE PROJECTS IN ECUADOR. THE MISSIONS NORMALLY MAKE CONTACT WITH THE UNDP OFFICE IN QUITO FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES. SIMILARLY UNICEF DOES NOT PRESENTLY HAVE A QUITO OFFICE PERSONNEL FROM BOGOTA VISIT ECUADOR TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR. ON APRIL 1, HOWEVER, A UNICEF OFFICE WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN QUITO IN CONNECTION WITH A MULTI-SECTOR PROJECT (EDUCATION-HEALTH-NUTRITION) TO BE STARTED IN THE PROVINCES OF BOLIVAR, CANAR, AND LOS RIOS.

(B) THE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE GOE FOR COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION RESTS IN THE DIVISION OF EXTERNAL COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD (NPB), HEADED BY PATRICIO DAVALOS C. THIS ORGANIZATION DOES NOT BRING BILATERAL DONORS TOGETHER, RATHER IT LIMITS COORDINATING ACTIVITIES TO GATHERING DATA ON THEIR PROGRAMS. IT DOES NOT PUBLISH THE INFORMATION. COORDINATION AMONG MULTILATERAL DONORS IS EFFECTED AT TWO LEVELS: FORMAL QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF UNDP, IDB, AID, IMF, ICEM, AND OAS HOSTED AND CHAIRED ON A ROTATING BASIS, AND FREQUENT INFORMAL OPERATIONAL CONTACTS AMONG PROGRAM MANAGERS AND TECHNICIANS. THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL COORDINATION AMONG BILATERAL DONORS SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF RESREP ERICH LANG IN NOVEMBER, 1972. HE CHAIRED MEETINGS EVERY SIX MONTHS OF AMBASSADORS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTORS OF ALL COUNTRIES WITH PROGRAMS IN ECUADOR (US, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, BRITAIN, BELGIUM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, GERMANY, ISRAEL, ITALY, AND SWEDEN). THE NEW ACTING RESREP RECOGNIZES HIS ROLE AS COORDINATOR AND PLANS TO REINITIATE REGULAR BILATERAL MEETINGS SOON.

(C) THE ACTING RESREP HAS VISITED EVERY UN PROJECT SINCE HIS ARRIVAL ON FEBRUARY 12. HE PLANS REVIEW OF ENTIRE COUNTRY PROGRAM IN THE SECOND PART OF JUNE. THIS WILL BE A TRIPARTITE EVALUATION INCLUDING THE RESREP, HOST GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE

EXECUTIVE AGENCIES CONCERNED. MEANWHILE, A PROJECT BY PROJECT EVALUATION IS SCHEDULED TO START APRIL 2 AND TERMINATE IN EARLY JUNE.

(D) THERE IS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL WITH THE UNDP THAT USAID REVIEW PROJECT PROPOSALS EARLY IN PROCESS. HOWEVER, DUE TO UNDP/E LEADERSHIP CHANGES, WORKING PROCEDURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED AND THE SHIFT OF PRIME REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY FROM AID/W TO USAID IS NOT YET OPERATIONAL. AS EXAMPLE OF DIFFICULTY, USAID LEARNED FROM MINHEALTH POPULATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL THAT GOE INTENDED TO REQUEST UNDP ASSISTANCE WITH NATIONAL CENSUS AND ATTEMPTED TO CHECK WITH LOCAL UNDP OFFICE. SANCHEZ MEJORADA HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF PROJECT. AID/W SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US OF PROJECT APPROVAL. IN SAME VEIN, WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNFPA HAS DESIGNATED UNDP AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR TAKEOVER USAID'S MINDEFENSE FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. AGAIN, NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINABLE HERE. GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, USAID WOULD HAVE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO THIS AT AN EARLY STATE, SINCE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE UNDP HAS NO QUALIFIED FAMILY PLANNING EXPERT TO MONITOR THE \$170,000 PROJECT. UNTIL NEW MONITORING PROCEDURES FOR COUNTRY PROPOSALS ARE OPERATIONAL AT POST WE REQUEST THAT WE BE KEPT INFORMED OF ALL PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

(E) ACTING RESREP AND STAFF HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO COMMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONGOING PROJECTS UNTIL THE COMING EVALUATION. THEY POINT OUT AS A PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT ECU/68/013, CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, INITIATED IN 1959. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING PROTECTION OF THE ECOLOGY OF THE ISLANDS, WHICH WAS THREATENED BY IMPORTED DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND BY AN UNREGULATED FLOW OF TOURISTS. AS PARTICULARLY WEAK PROJECT THEY POINT TO MODERNIZATION OF RURAL LIFE IN THE ANDES (ANDEAN MISSION, NO NUMBER), WHICH ON A PRELIM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INARY COST-BENEFIT EVALUATION HAS SHOWN DISAPPOINTING RESULTS. THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS PROJECT SUBMITTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL, IN ALL PROBABILITY, BE TURNED DOWN. ALTHOUGH UN PROJECTS HAVE ALWAYS EXPERIENCED COUNTERPART SHORTAGES, UNDP OFFICE EXPECTS PROBLEM TO DIMINISH.

(F) SEE SECTION (C) ABOVE. UNDP OFFICE PLANS TO ISSUE A REPORT ON THE TRIPARTITE JUNE EVALUATION, BUT NO ANNUAL OR OTHER REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR.

(G) ALTHOUGH MANAGEMENT OF THE UN COUNTRY PROGRAM SHOULD IMPROVE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF HERRERA, WE BELIEVE THAT A COUNTRY PROGRAM OF THIS SIZE (\$15 MILLION 1973-77, 68 EXPERTS, 26 PROJECTS) SHOULD HAVE A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE. HIS PRESENCE ON THE JOB WOULD PERMIT CLOSER COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS AND WOULD IMPROVE

EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND STAFF MORALE. WE SUGGEST THAT
US MISSION URGE UNDP TO NOMINATE RESREP TO ECUADOR SOONEST.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FAMILY PLANNING, CERP 0008, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, PROPOSALS (BID), CO UNTRY INFORMATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO02095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-1078
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974037/aaaaagqd.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 42239; B) QUITO TOAID A-17
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, EC, UNDP, (HERRERA, ANGEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005